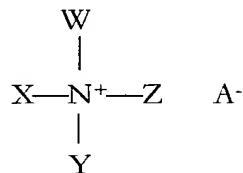


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following two paragraphs at page 4, after line 4:

The invention relates to a method to improve skin firmness comprising topically applying to affected skin areas a composition comprising:

- (a) an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein W, X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl group, C₂-C₄ alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y or Z is a C₂-C₄ alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group, and wherein A is a mixture of anionic counterions derived from at least two pharmaceutically acceptable acids and esters thereof; and

- (b) a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a method to improve the appearance of facial contours comprising topically applying to affected skin areas the composition described above. In yet another embodiment, the invention relates to a method for reducing the appearance of sagging skin comprising topically applying to affected skin areas the composition described above.